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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 261249

64
ORIGIN EA-09

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O 042320Z NOV 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, US

SUBJECT: WHITE HOUSE PRESS BRIEFING, NOVEMBER 4, 1975

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF CHINA PORTIONS OF NOVEMBER 4
WHITE HOUSE PRESS BRIEFING:

Q: WHEN IS BUSH COMING HOME? DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA?

MR. NESSEN: THAT IS SOMEWHAT UP IN THE AIR BECAUSE OF THE
CHINA TRIP.

Q: AFTER THE PRESIDENT VISITS CHINA?

MR. NESSEN: I AM NOT SURE WHETHER HE IS COMING BACK
BEFORE OR AFTER.

Q: RON, THERE IS SOME CONFUSION OR UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE
CHINA TRIP, THE LENGTH OF IT. COULD YOU GIVE US SOME
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PAGE 02 STATE 261249

STATUS OF IT RIGHT NOW?

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

MR. NESSEN: THE STATUS OF IT RIGHT NOW IS THAT THE PRESIDENT IS LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS VISIT TO PEKING, HE IS ANTICIPATING THE TRIP THIS YEAR, AND THE PLANNING FOR THE TRIP IS GOING ON AND AS SOON AS WE HAVE COMPLETED THE DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS WE WILL MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON IT.

Q: RON, DID I UNDERSTAND YOU TO SAY THAT IT IS POSSIBLE AT LEAST THAT AMBASSADOR BUSH WILL COME HOME BEFORE THE CHINA TRIP OF THE PRESIDENT AND THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL GO TO CHINA?

MR. NESSEN: I NEVER GOT A FIRM ANSWER ON THAT THIS MORNING. I WAS LOOKING INTO IT AND NEVER WAS ABLE TO TIE IT UP.

Q: THE PROBLEM ON THE ADVANCE TEAM, HAS THAT BEEN RESOLVED AND HAS THE ADVANCE TEAM LEFT YET?

MR. NESSEN: THE ADVANCE TEAM HAS NOT LEFT YET, AS I UNDERSTAND IT.

Q: WHY WERE THEY PULLED OFF THE PLANE?

Q: HAVE THERE BEEN SOME CHANGES IN THE LAST 48 HOURS OR SO ON THE PLANNING FOR THE CHINA TRIP?

MR. NESSEN: NO, THE PLANNING CONTINUES.

Q: OR IN THE TENTATIVE SCHEDULE THAT YOU HAD BEEN WORKING TOWARD?

MR. NESSEN: I DON'T KNOW OF ANY CHANGES, TOM.

Q: DO YOU STILL ANTICIPATE THE TRIP?

MR. NESSEN: THIS YEAR THE PRESIDENT ANTICIPATES GOING AND EXPECTS TO GO.

Q: IN NOVEMBER, THE BEGINNING OF DECEMBER?
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MR. NESSEN: I HAVE HEARD OF NO CHANGE IN THAT TIMETABLE.

Q: WHY WAS IT STOPPED YESTERDAY? WHY WERE THEY STOPPED FROM GOING?

MR. NESSEN: I AM TOLD THAT THERE WAS SOME KIND OF MIX-UP AS TO WHEN THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO GO BUT THAT BASICALLY

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

THERE ARE A LOT OF SCHEDULING AND OTHER TECHNICAL ISSUES WHICH ARE WORKED ON AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT ALL OF THEM ARE MYSELF, ACTUALLY.

Q: HAVE ACTUAL DATES FOR THE CHINA TRIP BEEN SET BUT JUST HAVE NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED YET?

MR. NESSEN: NO. SECRETARY KISSINGER GAVE A KIND OF A ROUGH COUPLE OF DAYS PERIOD WHEN HE EXPECTED IT TO START.

Q: AND THAT YOU STILL EXPECT TO --

MR. NESSEN: I HAVE HEARD OF NO CHANGE IN THAT.

Q: IS THE ADVANCE TEAM GOING TO OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL?

MR. NESSEN: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO ANNOUNCE ON ANY OTHER COUNTRIES.
(NON-CHINA Q. AND A'S.)

Q: WHAT KIND OF A MIX-UP WAS IT THAT YOU DESCRIBED ON THE CHINA TRIP? YOU SAY THERE WAS A MIX-UP. WHAT KIND OF A MIX-UP?

MR. NESSEN: I AM JUST NOT CLEAR ON ALL THOSE DETAILS. I HAVE NOT GOTTEN INTO THE ADVANCE PARTY STUFF VERY MUCH.

Q: RON, CAN YOU TELL US WHEN YOU EXPECT THE ADVANCE TEAM TO LEAVE?

MR. NESSEN: BEFORE TOO LONG, I WOULD EXPECT, WE WILL HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU.

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Q: RON, ISN'T THE PROBLEM THAT WE HAVE NOT HEARD BACK FROM THE CHINESE ON WHETHER OUR PROPOSED DATES ARE ACCEPTABLE? ISN'T THAT THE PROBLEM?

MR. NESSEN: WELL, THERE IS JUST A LOT OF SCHEDULING AND TECHNICAL ISSUES THAT ARE BEING WORKED ON, TOMMY.

Q: HAVE WE HEARD FROM THE CHINESE? HAVE THE CHINESE SIGNED OFF ON THIS TRIP?

MR. NESSEN: I HAVE TO CHECK AND FIND OUT. I DON'T KNOW.

Q: MAY I PUT THE QUESTION THIS WAY: IS THE CHINESE TRIP IN JEOPARDY?

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

MR. NESSEN: AS I SAY, THE PRESIDENT ANTICIPATES AND EXPECTS TO GO TO PEKING.

Q: SO THAT MEANS NO, THE CHINESE TRIP IS NOT IN JEOPARDY?

MR. NESSEN: I HAVE HEARD OF NO CHANGE IN PLANS.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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